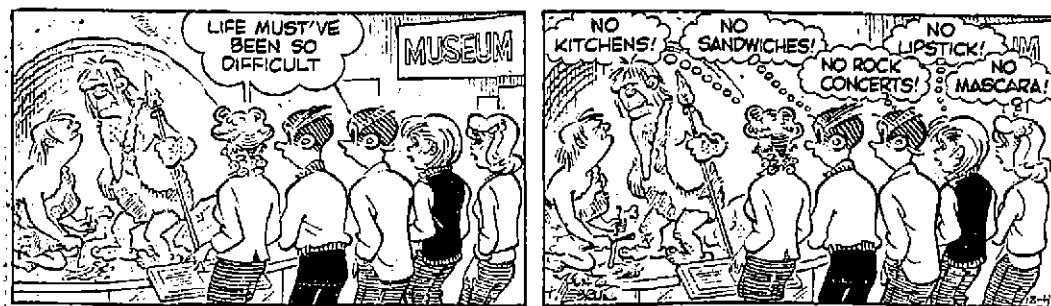


BLONDIE



SALLY FORTH



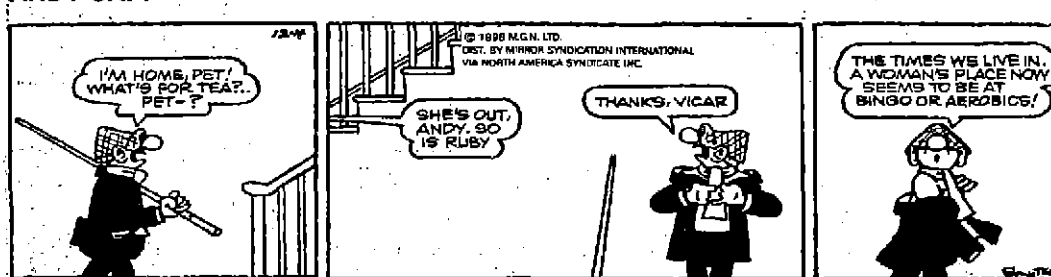
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN



9 CHICKWEED LANE



ANDY CAPP



ROSE IS ROSE



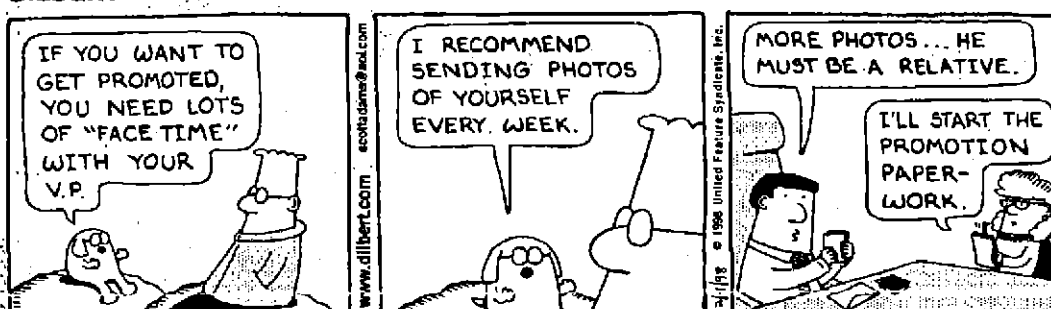
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM



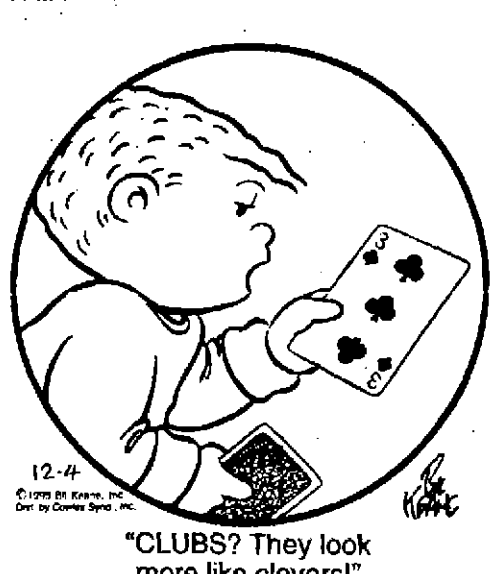
DILBERT



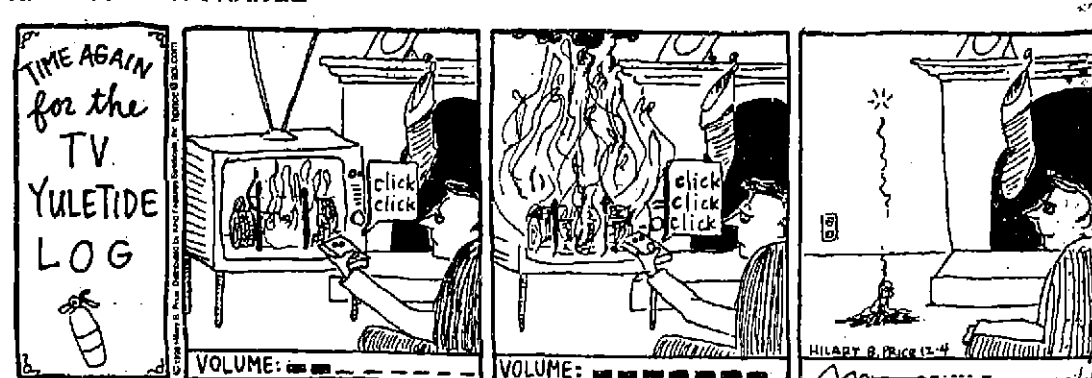
DENNIS THE MENACE



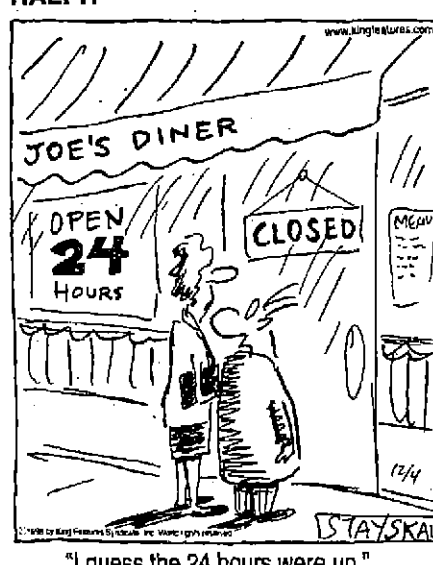
FAMILY CIRCUS



RHYMES WITH ORANGE



RALPH



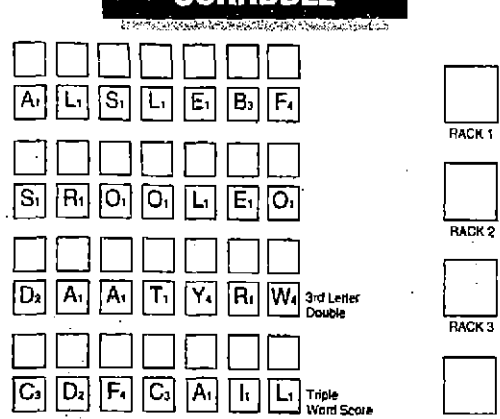
Today's Birthdays

Actress-singer Deanna Durbin is 77. Game show host Wink Martindale is 64. Actor-producer Max Baer Jr. is 61. Singer-musician Chris Hillman is 56. Jazz singer Cassandra Wilson is 43. Rock musician Bob Griffin (The BoDeans) is 39. Rock singer Vinnie Dombroski (Sponge) is 36. Actress Mariaa Tomel is 34. Actress Chelsea Noble is 34.

I NEED HELP



SCRABBLE



PAR SCORE 115-125
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary (Merriam-Webster) and OSW Official Scrabble Words (Chambers). JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW 12-4-98 © 1998 United Feature Syndicate, Inc.

For solution, see Classified.

HOROSCOPE

For Saturday, Dec. 5, 1998

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You're half-trigger sensitive and liable to turn into an emotional basket case.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Everyone's talking — so what else is new? Well, everyone's listening too.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) No matter what this time brings, don't get used to it, because a change is going to come.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Take good care of your body, starting with your stomach. Cook or otherwise obtain a favorite meal, and never mind the consequences!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) Keep your radar tuned for tiny shifts in the status quo; they could be harbingers of greater changes to come.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) Curb any inclination you have to play lone wolf, and take your rightful position as leader of the pack.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Life is a rodeo; just do your level best to hang on!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Your momentum carries you through any and all setbacks.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) The music stops, and the merry-go-round grinds to a halt. Fun time is over.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) The old proverb about bending but not breaking was never more appropriate.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) You might feel as if your world is falling to pieces around you. But it's not.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) It's a time when things are just as you want them to be and everyone is happy.

WORD SLEUTH

The Florida Keys

S S Q Y N K I L F D A X V T Q
O D A M A N O I T A T E G E V
J H N G G W F M M S C A Y W U
R P N A U L E E G S E J H O F
D B Z R L T X S V N I W G T R
Q O M D F S R T U K I R Y I H
S S T E L S I O F A A H U E C
D F B N Z Y W N T L C V S O K
T Y E K T S A E Y Y R Q R I T
O N L E F I L E N I R A M K F
I H F Y R D K C A Z L D X W V

Thursday's unlisted clue: BULLS

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions — forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Friday's unlisted clue hint: LAST CITY ON THE CAUSEWAY

Causeway Fishing Islets Reefs
Coral Garden Key Key Largo Tourism
Dry Tortugas Gulf Limestone Vegetation
East Key Islands Marine life

For solution, see Classified.

ACES

By Bobby Wolff

Against vulnerable opponents, West finds the sacrifice tempting since East's jump to three hearts promises length in hearts, some distribution and little defense.

And whatever the penalty, the opponents remain vulnerable and therefore favorites to win the rubber. When Dr.

John Fisher held West's cards, he opted to defend against the vulnerable game. If you agree with Dr. Fisher's decision, how would you defend after your heart king

cashes and partner plays a noncommittal five? Dr. Fisher realized that whatever tricks his side could win in trumps or diamonds could not disappear. What could go away on dummy's diamonds was a trick in clubs. Obviously, a club shift was vital at trick two, but which club to lead? Dr. Fisher chose the club queen! Dummy's king would win a club trick whichever club he led. This confident shift destroyed South's game. Dummy's king won, but when East won his trump ace, his club return trapped South's jack, and South suffered a one-trick set. Note that leading the ace and another club at tricks two and three won't do. South's only option is to finesse to his jack, and instead of one down, he scores 10 tricks.

NORTH ♠ K Q J 7
♥ 6
♦ K J 10 8 7
♣ K 5 2

WEST ♠ 10 9 8 7 4
♥ 5 3
♦ 9 5 3
♣ A Q 9

EAST ♠ A 4
♥ Q 10 9 5 3
♦ 4 2
♣ 10 7 6 4

SOUTH ♠ 10 9 8 6 5
♥ 8 2
♦ A Q 6
♣ J 8 3

Vulnerable: North-South
Dealer: West

The bidding:
West 1♥ North 3♥ East 3♥ South 4♥

Pass 4♥ All pass

Opening lead: Heart king

N.Y. TIMES CROSSWORD

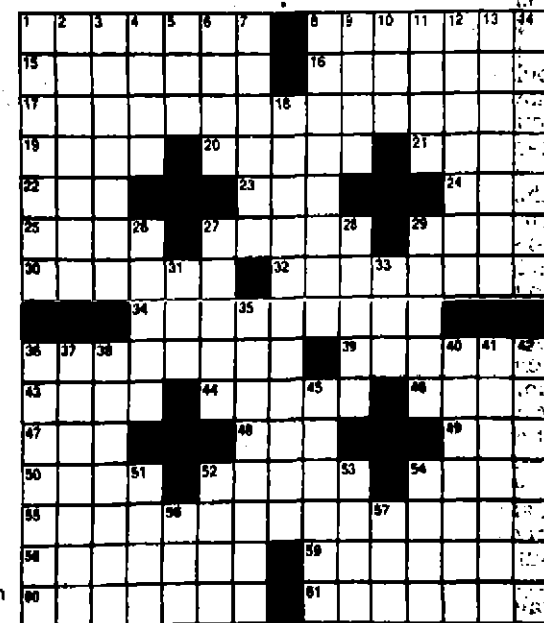
No. 1023

ACROSS

- 1 Words of encouragement
- 2 Pivots
- 3 Water worlds
- 4 Like some military maneuvers
- 5 Simon, to Schuster
- 6 Muskett missile
- 7 Exceptional deal
- 8 Razor brand
- 9 "Give" while longer
- 10 O.C.S. grads
- 11 "Uh-huh"
- 12 Oceans
- 13 Dillon and Biondi
- 14 Room off an ambulatory
- 15 Versailles agreement
- 16 Airline offerings
- 17 Free time for women
- 18 God and others, e.g.
- 19 Lawyers
- 20 Stampede
- 21 Succeeded in annoying
- 22 Woolly yarn
- 23 Foreign dignitary
- 24 Rebuttal to 24-Across
- 25 Cable inits.
- 26 Get-up-and-go
- 27 Olden magistrates
- 28 "Leave as is"
- 29 Good-time Charlies
- 30 Potential ring-accepter
- 31 Deplete
- 32 Writer on Mulberry Street
- 33 It may be felt on the range

DOWN

- 1 Fictional hero from Zenith
- 2 Middle name?
- 3 Reserved traveling space
- 4 Track on the ground
- 5 Son of Prince Valiant
- 6 Contends
- 7 Urban area in a 1987 Cheech Marin film title
- 8 Sticks back in an album
- 9 Stadium
- 10 Sea salt
- 11 Cinematic terrier
- 12 Photo of gramps, maybe
- 13 Goddess Mother of the World
- 14 Protectors of Peru
- 15 Prepare (for)
- 16 Melange
- 17 "has fleas" (uke-tuning phrase)
- 18 "say" ("Alias")
- 19 So far
- 20 "I taught I law a putty"
- 21 Morse syllable
- 22 Hematite, pyrite, etc.
- 23 Rough and red?dy?
- 24 Habitue
- 25 They take marks off
- 26 Secures at sea
- 27 President Fujimori of Peru
- 28 Uses as a basis
- 29 Requirements for some degrees
- 30 Clearly in good health
- 31 Puts a label on
- 32 Musical chairs goal
- 33 Playlet
- 34 Hasn't got a (is poor)
- 35 Off-season in the Alps



Puzzle by Manny Moskowitz

Answers to any three clues in this puzzle are available by touch-tone phone: 1-900-420-5656 (95¢ per minute).

Annual subscriptions are available for the best of Sunday crosswords from the last 50 years: 1-888-7-ACROSS.